

Serial No. 09/543,958
Reply Filed April 26, 2004

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed November 25, 2003, and in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, reconsideration is requested. Claims 1-14 and 16-23 remain in this application of which claim 1, 8, 20 and 21 are independent. Claims 1 and 4 have been amended. Entry of these amendments is respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. The foregoing amendments overcome this rejection.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-14 and 16-23, of which claims 1, 8, 20 and 21 are independent, were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 in view of U.S. Patent 6,353,461 ("Shore"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

According to Shore, a video assist control system "digitally record[s] and play[s] back scene takes as they are being shot using the cameras' video taps as input sources. . . . [A] database of scene and take information (including comments, action and cutpoints) . . . provide a link to post production which significantly reduces production times" Col. 2, lines 17-24. The database permits access to recordings "for playback review, editing and assembly of recordings or portions thereof." Abstract, lines 13-14. According to Shore,

"[T]he operator may also enter comments (e.g., notes keyed in by the user) related to an overall scene (wherein the comment is associated with all takes within that scene), a particular take, a particular enabled camera . . . , and/or a particular selection within a take. In a preferred embodiment, comments are inserted through operator selection of a "comments" designator 130 that results in the display of a scrollable popup notepad for comment entry - as illustrated in Fig. 5 (as well as Figs. 6 through 10 and 11 through 14 in relation to other screens). Once entered, the system stores the comments, as with other system settings identified herein, in a database for retrieval with associated stored scene/take recordings, or for use as a means for later searching of the database of scene/take recordings." Col 7, lines 52-65.

In Shore, as noted above, comments input by an operator and are stored in association with a scene or take. In contrast, the claims as amended all recite (by virtue of independent claims 1, 8, 20 and 21) that "an indication from a reviewer of a start frame and an end frame of a

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selected one or more of the plurality of frames" is received (which is not merely a take, as in Shore) and comments are stored "in frame accurate correspondence with the selected one or more of the plurality of frames" to which they pertain.

More particularly, Shore neither teaches nor suggests permitting an operator to indicate "a start frame and an end frame of a selected one or more of the plurality of frames," as recited in all independent claims, *and to:*

to receive a comment "pertaining to the selected one or more of the plurality of frames" and are not "in frame accurate correspondence with the selected one or more of the plurality of frames . . . to which the received comments pertain," as recited in claims 1 and 20; or

to receive a comment "corresponding to the selected one or more of the plurality of frames" and to store such a comment "in frame accurate correspondence with the selected one or more of the plurality of frames . . . to which the received comments correspond," as recited in claim 8; or

to receive a comment "corresponding to the selected one or more of the plurality of frames" and to communicate "the comments of the user, and a frame accurate indication of the selected plurality of frames to which the comments correspond," as recited in claim 21.

Accordingly, the rejection is traversed.

The Office Action asserts that it would have been obvious to modify Shore to meet these limitations. Although Shore does state that storing information, including comments, may "significantly reduc[e] production times," Shore teaches a system which is already intended to meet this goal. There is nothing in Shore to suggest that Shore needs further modification to achieve a goal that Shore teaches has already been met.

Accordingly, the independent claims 1, 8, 20 and 21 are patentably distinguished from Shore. The remaining claims are dependent claims that are allowable for at least the same reasons.

Moreover, the rejection of claims 9 and 11-12 is incomplete and therefore improper. The rejection merely states that Shore teaches a "frame rate" which only appears in claim 10. The rejection fails to address the specifically claimed data in the data structure as claimed in claims 9 ("identifying the reviewer and the comment received from the reviewer"), 11 ("identifying the selected one or more of the plurality of frames") and 12 ("indicates that the data file includes the

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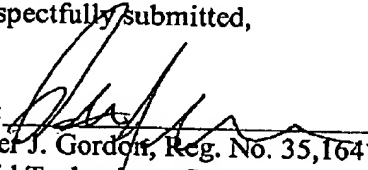
comments of the review and approval system."). Accordingly, the rejection of claims 9 and 11-12 is traversed.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application should now be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this reply, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicants' attorney at the telephone number listed below.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicants hereby request any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, please charge any fee to **Deposit Account No. 50-0876**.

Respectfully submitted,

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